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ABSTRACT

This career exploration instructional booklet on the pharmacist's occupation is one of several resulting from the rural southwestern Colorado CEPAC Project (Career Education Process of Attitude Change). Based on a job analysis and utilizing a programed instructional format, the following content is included: A brief description of two real situations a pharmacist may encounter; information on varied aspects of a pharmacist's job such as responsibilities and types of employment; 10 questions regarding either the two simulated job situations or the job-related content; and answers to the questions. There are suggestions as to additional questions for students to explore and people to contact in this exploration process. The names and addresses of resources that can be consulted for additional information are included. (EM)

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P H A R M A C I S T

Occupational Simulation Kit

Career Education-
Process of Attitude Change

San Juan Basin Area
Vocational-Technical School
Cortez Colorado

CE 011 671

FOREWARD

This occupational simulation kit was prepared by Nancy Parsley, teacher at Mancos Elementary School, Mancos, Colorado. The kit was the result of a job analysis and was developed based on the format by John D. Krumholz as presented in the USOE Study Vocational Problem Solving Experiences for Stimulating Career Exploration and Interest. The CEPAC Career Education Project is a consortium in Southwestern Colorado administered through the San Juan Basin Area Vocational-Technical School including the school districts of: Dolores RE-4A, Dolores, Colorado; Mancos RE-6, Mancos, Colorado; Dolores County RE-1-J, Dove Creek, Colorado; San Juan County No. 1, Silverton, Colorado; Egnar No. 18, Egnar, Colorado; Montezuma-Cortez RE-1, Cortez, Colorado; Bayfield 10Jt-R, Bayfield, Colorado.

The reader should note that the simulation kit may not be adaptable to all situations. This material has been reproduced so that others may benefit from the endeavors of the author and the Career Education Project.

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It is 2:0(a.m. and you have just received a call from a Mrs. Neil. Her three year ‹ld son has a fever of 105°, complainir g of a sore throat and is listless. She is calling for your help.

What shall I do?

Robert Johnston comes into your place of business. In the past three days he has developed a severe irritating rash on his neck and arms. What can be done to get rid of the breaking out?

Each and every day, you are faced with many decisions concerning someone's wellbeing. However, you are not a doctor, a nurse, a medicine man, or a magician. Instead you are a knowledgeable, well-paid pharmacist in a local drugstore.

A qualified pharmacist is a great asset to many people, including doctors, hospitals, and the community in general. All are dependent upon his increasing knowledge of medicine. His ability to do his job well and his willingness to help others whether it be 2:00 p.m. or 2:00 a.m.

1. Suppose you were in bed when Mrs. Neil called, would you:

   a. get up, go to the store and see what can be done

   b. roll over and go back to sleep

   c. tell her to call someone else

Pharmacists dispense drugs and medicines prescribed by medical doctors. They may also supply and advise people on the use of many medicines that can be obtained without prescriptions. A pharmacist must understand the use of all drugs.

Answer

1. (a) get up, go to the store and see what can be done.

What the drug is made of is also important, as it may not mix with other medicine being taken and cause serious illness or even death.

2. Why is knowing what a medicine is made of essential to the pharmacist?
   a. It is against the law not to know
   b. It can cause serious illness or even death
   c. It is in the pharmacist's oath to know

Answer

2. (b) It can cause serious illness or even death.

Because of this knowledge of what the medicine is composed of, a pharmacist is able to tell when a doctor has accidentally prescribed the wrong medicine or dosage. If the pharmacist knows there's been a mistake and does not inform the doctor, he and not the doctor, in case the patient develops serious effects or dies, is legally responsible.

3. May a pharmacist as well as a doctor advise people on what medicines to take?

   a. Yes

   b. No

   c. Depends on the type of medicine

Answer

3. (c) depends on the type of medicine.

Many pharmacists in drugstores also have other duties. Besides being involved in medicine, they may deal in non-medical merchandise, hire and supervise store personnel and over see the general operation of the store.

4. Name three other jobs that many drugstore pharmacists do other than to do with medicine.

Answer

4. 1. deal in non-medical merchandise

   2. hire and advise store personnel

   3. over see the general cperation of store.

Pharmacists in hospitals dispense prescriptions and advise the medical staff on the selection and effects of drugs; they also make sterile solutions, buy medical supplies, teach in schools of nursing, and perform some administrative duties.

5. Which of these things does a hospital pharmacist <u>not</u> do?

   a. Advise the medical staff

   b. Buy medical supplies

   c. Teach in nursing schools

   d. Over see the general operation of the hospital

Answer

5. (d) over see the general operation of the hospital

A major difference between the hospital pharmacist and the corner drugstore is that in the nospitals a large share of the stock is drugs to be given by injection or by intravenous solution, whereas a drugstore stocks more drugs to be taken by mouth.

6. What is the major difference between the hospital pharmacist and the corner drugstore?

   a. The manufacturing of medicines

   b. How the medicine is to be taken

   c. Who gives the medicine

Answer

6. (b) how the medicine is to be taken

There are other places in which pharmacists may be found besides drugstores and hospitals. Many are employed as medical sales representatives by drug manufacturers and sell their merchandise to hospitals and doctors in private practices. They also inform these people of new drugs on the market. Others teach in pharmacy colleges, do research, supervise the making of medicines, develop new drugs and write articles for pharmaceutical journals.

7. Name five ways in which pharmacists can be employed.

Answer

7. 1. write articles for hournals

2. medical sales representative

3. inform medical people of new drugs

4. teach in pharmacy colleges

5. do research

6. supervise the making of medicine

Most employed pharmacists today are either in business for themselves or employed by hospitals. Women, who represent nearly nine per cent of all pharmacists are employed in all branches of the profession.

Most new pharmacy graduates, whether male or female, will find employment readily available.

Many community pharmacies may hire additional pharmacists because of a trend toward shorter working hours.

Employment in hospitals probably will rise with the construction of additional facilities.

8. True or False

   At this time there is a good employment outlook for jobs having to do with future pharmacists.

Answer

8. True

Beginning pharmacists generally received salaries ranging from $10,000 to $14,000 a year in 1970. This depends upon college records and other qualifications. Experienced pharmacists practicing in community pharmacies in 1970 generally were paid annual salaries of between $14,000 and $17,000.

Community pharmacists generally work more than the standard 40 hours work week. Drugstores are open in the evening and on weekends, and all states require a registered pharmacist to be in attendance during store hours. Self employed pharmacists often work more hours than those in a salaried position. Those who teach or work for hospitals, industry, or the government have shorter work weeks, paid vacations, health insurance, and other fringe benefits.

9. In your opinion:

   Name the advantages of the self employed pharmacist and the salaried pharmacist.

Mr. Johnston's rash did become somewhat better after had given him some ointment. However, it did not entirely heal so he contacted his doctor. After receiving the prescription, you type the specific directions for taking the medicine. You then enter it on Mr. Johnston's personal record which also includes his name, address, the date and type or prescripticn. Each person having a doctor's prescription is given a personal record which is kept for three years unless the medicine is a narcotic, and then it is kept for five year.

Only a person having a legal court order from a judge may look at someone's medical record.

On the personal record page provided in this kit, copy Mr. Johnston's prescription:

Mr. Russell Johnston
2073 Lyn Street
Denver, Colorado

Vickasodical, rub on twice daily

Dr. Swift

A pharmacist should have business ability as well as the ability to instill confidence in customers, Honesty, integrity, and orderliness are important attributes for the profession. In addition, accuracy is needed to make and dispense medicines as well as keep records required by law.

10. List three important attributes of a pharmacist.

Answer

10. Honesty, integrity, orderliness

What do you need to find out? Here are some questions that you might want answered.

1. What are the opportunities in the field? In what areas is there a need for more workers?
2. What opportunities are there for advancement?
3. What education or special training is required for work in these jobs?
4. How much would you earn? What other kinds of jobs are open to a person with similar interests and abilities?

You can probably think of other questions that you want answered. There are many places to look and many people to help you. Here are some suggestions to help you get started.

1. Ask your counselor for information.

2. Visit a local pharmacist

3. Write to:

National Association of
Boards of Pharmacy
77 West Washington Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

American Society of Hospital
Pharmacists
4630 Montgomery Ave.
Washington, D. C. 20014

Current requirements:

National Association of Boards
of Pharmacy
77 West Washington Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

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